

Tsenguunjav Byambasuren

(Last update: Aug 2025)

CONTACT	Cornell University Ithaca, NY 14853 USA	tb497@cornell.edu https://sites.google.com/view/tsenguunjavbyambasuren/
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT	Trinity College Dublin , Dublin, Ireland Assistant Professor in Economics, Oct 2025 –	
EDUCATION	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY Ph.D. in Applied Economics and Management, 2019 – Aug 2025 Dissertation: “Essays on Labor Market Power” Committee: Nancy H. Chau (Chair), Arnab K. Basu, Michele Belot, Ravi Kanbur Cornell University , Ithaca, NY Master of Science in Applied Economics and Management, 2017 – 2019 University of Finance and Economics , Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Bachelor of Science in Economics (with distinction), 2009 – 2013	
AFFILIATION	Monash University, Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Research Affiliate	2025 – present
FIELDS	Labor Economics, Development Economics	
PUBLISHED PAPERS	“Cooking Fuel Choice and Child Mortality in India” (with Arnab K. Basu, Nancy H. Chau and Neha Khanna) <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , 2024, 222: 240-265. Featured in Cornell Chronicle, The Hindu, The Times of India, Times Now, Press Trust of India, Medical Xpress George F. Warren Award for Outstanding Paper, Cornell University	
WORKING PAPERS	“Automation Threat and Labor Market Power” (Job Market Paper) This paper studies the role of automation threat in firms’ labor market power. Employing the production approach, I show that workers in an average German manufacturer receive 79 cents on the marginal euro. Using automation threat proxied by local labor market regions’ exposure to industrial robots instrumented by plausibly exogenous shift-share factors, I find that robot exposure increases employer power over routine workers in areas with weaker unions in East Germany with spatial frictions. The empirical findings are consistent with the wage bargaining model where employers retain the “right-to-manage” their workforce composition and unions representing different workers separately bargain with the firm. “Public Works Program, Labor Supply, and Monopsony” (with Nancy H. Chau and Vidhya Soundararajan) This paper studies the role of changes in workforce composition in monopsony power. We develop a monopsony model in which a firm’s wage markdown—the wedge between MRPL and wage—is a weighted average of markdowns for heterogeneous workers. We empirically illustrate the theory using India’s National	

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which generates non-manufacturing jobs in rural areas. Consistent with the model predictions, at manufacturing firms, we find that the program increases average markdowns by crowding out mobile workers and effectively increasing the share of immobile workers with low labor supply elasticity.

“Work Incentives, Earnings and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Anh Nguyen)

Using representative data from over 30 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, this paper presents nearly continent-wide evidence that increasing women’s work incentives and earnings potential, induced by artisanal mining and commodity price rises, decreases violence within the household. We leverage spatial variation in gold suitability and exogenous temporal variation in global gold prices, conditional on industrial mining, to create variation in the profitability of artisanal mining. We identify increases in women’s activities in mining and retail industries relative to men and the rise in women’s intrahousehold bargaining power as mechanisms for the decrease in the risk of intimate partner violence.

“Alcohol Consumption and Intimate Partner Violence: Long-Term Effects of Temporary Alcohol Ban” (with Arnab K. Basu and Nancy H. Chau)

This study traces the impact of a partial liquor ban – from launch to reversal – on alcohol consumption and intimate partner violence. We decompose the long-run effects of a temporary and selective liquor ban on drinking behavior and women’s experience with intimate partner violence to include a policy impact and a policy reversal effect. Leveraging neighbor states comparable and sufficiently isolated in our context as the control group, we employ difference-in-differences and event-study approaches to identify the causal impacts of a policy that shuts down hard liquor-serving local bars. We find that alcohol consumption in bars significantly reduced over the policy period and rebounded after the policy removal, with no impacts on home drinking. Consistent with a policy-induced change in the volume of alcohol consumption during and after the alcohol ban, we find that physical violence declined during the prohibition and overshot its starting level following the reversal only in high-wealth households, the primary consumers of expensive hard liquors most likely affected by the ban.

RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS

“Capital Market Integration, Labor Market Distortions, and Labor Misallocation” (with Nancy H. Chau, Anh Nguyen and Vidhya Soundararajan)

This paper examines the labor market effects of foreign capital liberalization in India, with a focus on labor misallocation and employer market power, a key source of misallocation. We estimate the firm-specific labor markdowns, the gap between MRPL and wage, as a proxy for monopsony power. Leveraging a foreign direct investment liberalization episode as a natural experiment, we use difference-in-differences and event study designs to identify the causal impacts of capital market integration on the labor market. For firms with ex ante high MRPL, liberalization increases employment by 17% and wage bills by 15% and reduces MRPL by 14% and labor markdowns by 15%, with no impact on wages relative to low MRPL firms. These effects are driven by female workers.

“On the Intra-Household Public Goods and Fertility Trade-Off” (with Arnab K. Basu and Nancy H. Chau)

This paper explores an infinite-horizon dynamic model of intra-household public goods, fertility, and child mortality in which child survival is subject to the provision of household public goods. An overlapping generation model we developed explains the empirically observed relationship between fertility rate, household-level public goods, and infant mortality. In this framework, the household public goods provision reduces child mortality and enhances the earning capacity of surviving children. The model demonstrates how intra-household public goods provision is associated with fertility decisions through its impacts on child health and parents’ earning potential in the long run. The model with endogenous household public good provision and intergenerational transfer suggests that households make trade-offs between intra-household public goods and fertility conditional on the survival probability of offspring, a complement of child mortality.

POLICY WORK	<p>“Exploring Geospatial-Based Approaches to Develop a Pre-Census National Sampling Frame in Armenia” (with Saida Ismailakhunova, Avralt-Od Purevjav and Sarchil Qader), <i>Under Review</i> World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 11039, 2025. Featured in Devdiscourse</p>	
	<p>“Distributional Impact of Energy Tariff Reforms in the Republic of Georgia” (with Saida Ismailakhunova, Avralt-Od Purevjav and Juan Carlos Palacios Mora)</p>	
SELECTED PRE-PHD PAPERS	<p>“Economic Impacts of the Government Investment Policy: Dynamic CGE Model” (with Avralt-Od Purevjav and Erdenetungalag Erdenekhuyag) <i>International Journal of System Dynamics Applications</i>, 2015, 4(1): 96-118.</p>	
	<p>“The Failure to Learn from Boom-Bust Cycles: A DSGE Approach” (with Avralt-Od Purevjav)</p>	
RELEVANT POSITIONS	Research Assistant to Professor Nancy H. Chau	Summer/Fall 2018, Summer 2023/2025
	Research Assistant to Professor Arnab K. Basu	Summer 2022
	Research Assistant to Professor Eswar Prasad	Spring 2019
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY	
	International Trade and Finance (Undergraduate, AEM/ECON 2300)	
	Coordinating Teaching Assistant to Professor Arnab K. Basu	Spring 2025
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Arnab K. Basu	Spring 2022-2024
	Teaching Assistant to Professor David R. Lee	Spring 2021
	Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (Undergraduate, AEM 1300)	
	Coordinating Teaching Assistant to Professor Arnab K. Basu	Summer 2024/2025
	Applied Managerial Economics (Undergraduate, AEM 4100)	
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Terry Alexander	Fall 2022/2023
	Research and Methods (Master of Professional Studies, AEM 6991)	
	Teaching Assistant to Professors Mark Conostas, Aija Leiponen, Daniela Scur	Fall 2021
	Consumer Behavior (Undergraduate, AEM 3440)	
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Alison Shields	Fall 2020
PRESENTATIONS	ASSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (scheduled)	2026
	11th Conference of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality at the World Bank, 6th EALE-SOLE-AASLE Conference in Toronto, UNU-WIDER Development Conference in Helsinki, 16th IAB PhD Workshop in Nuremberg, University of Georgia (Agricultural and Applied Economics), ASSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco	2025
	NEUDC Conference at Northeastern University (presenter and discussant), AEP Seminar at Cornell University, EALE Conference at Norwegian School of Economics, EEA-ESEM Annual Meeting at Erasmus School of Economics, Online Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, SOLE Annual Meeting in Portland OR, MWIEDC Conference at the University of Chicago, STEG Annual Conference at NYU Abu Dhabi	2024

	24th IZA Summer School in Labor Economics in Berlin, MWIEDC Conference at the University of Houston (presenter and discussant), PacDev Conference at the University of Washington	2023
	17th Annual Conference at Indian Statistical Institute, APPAM Fall Research Conference in Washington DC, WEAI Annual Conference in Portland OR	2022
AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS	Graduate Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	2019 – 2020, Summer 2020, 2024 – 2025
	IAB PhD Workshop Travel Grant, Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany	2025
	EEA Travel Grant, European Economic Association	2024
	Dyson Graduate Teaching Assistant – Outstanding Service Award, Cornell	2024
	Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	2020 – 2024
	Cornell Graduate School Conference Travel Grant	2022, 2023, 2024(x2), 2025
	Graduate Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	Summer 2021 – 2023
	Fulbright Scholarship for Master’s Studies	2018 – 2019
	Summer Internship Grant (declined), CIPA, Cornell	2018
	Tuition Fellowship, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), Cornell	2017 – 2018
	Dean’s List, University of Finance and Economics, Mongolia	2010 – 2012
OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE	Consultant, Poverty and Equity Group, The World Bank	2023 – present
	Summer Intern, Global Indicators Group, The World Bank	2019
	Economist, Research and Statistics Department, Central Bank of Mongolia	2013 – 2017
AFFILIATIONS	American Economic Association, Member	2024 – present
	European Economic Association, Member	2024 – present
	The Econometric Society, Member	2023 – 2025
	Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Affiliated Student	2023 – 2025
	Cornell University, Diversity in Cornell Economics (DICE), General Member	2022 – 2025
SKILLS	Software/Programming	
	Stata, R, MATLAB, ArcGIS, EViews, LaTeX	
	Language	
	English (fluent), Mongolian (native)	